

REMARKS

The above amendment with the following remarks is submitted to be fully responsive to the Office Action of August 23, 2004. Reconsideration of this application in light of the amendment and the allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. Claim 1 has been amended above to more clearly define the invention of claim 1, and new claims 2 to 26 have been added to further define the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled. Therefore, claims 1 to 26 are still pending in the present application and are believed to be in proper condition for allowance.

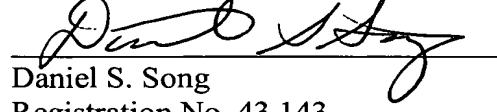
Referring now to the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 7 of U.S. Patent No. 6,732,703. In response, a Terminal Disclaimer is submitted herewith. Correspondingly, the withdrawal of this rejection and the allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Further, as noted above, claims 2 to 26 have been added to further define the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled. Entry and allowance of these newly added claims are also respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, he is invited to call the undersigned to expedite the prosecution and work out any such issue by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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